

# After You Read

## Respond and Think Critically

### Respond and Interpret

1. What are your impressions of Beowulf? Explain.
2. (a) Summarize what happens during the battle between Grendel and Beowulf. (b) How does learning about Grendel's fears and feelings during the battle affect your impression of the monster?
3. (a) Why does Grendel's mother try to kill Beowulf? Describe their struggle and its outcome. (b) After the struggle with Grendel's mother, why does Beowulf search for Grendel? Why does he feel the way he does?
4. (a) Why does Wiglaf come to Beowulf's aid in his fight with the dragon? (b) In what ways are Beowulf and Wiglaf similar? In what ways are they different?

### Analyze and Evaluate

5. Given the fact that most of Beowulf's men abandon him during his fight with the dragon, what might this indicate about the future of the kingdom?
6. A symbol is a person, thing, or event that stands for something else, often an idea or concept. What might Beowulf symbolize? What might Grendel and the dragon represent?

### Connect

7. **Big Idea** The Epic Warrior From the description of Beowulf's character, what traits do you think the Anglo-Saxons considered heroic?
8. **Connect to Today** Which character is a modern reader likely to find most appealing? Why?

